SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : He is robbing the consumer...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, this is a very serious issue...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is the Question Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)... Question and answer is not the only solution. Find some otherway...(*Interruptions*)...I will see to it...(*Interruptions*)...

Foreign ventures of GAIL

*446. SHRI B. J. PANDA:†
MISS MABEL REBELLO :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM and NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the news "GAIL India sets sight overseas" as reported in media;

(b) if so, what are its proposed new ventures in the foreign fields; and

(c) the countries where the company is already having ventures in CNG and petrochemicals togetherwith the annual earnings in foreign exchange from the existing ones?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK); (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) is pursuing overseas opportunities in the areas of its core competence i.e. development and operation of gas pipeline infrastructure, gas processing facilities to recover value added products and gas retail business besides initiatives based on alliances with reputed international companies.

(b) GAIL is a partner in a consortium of three Oil Public Sector Undertakings, namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited GAIL and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited to import natural gas from Bangladesh. Further, GAIL has taken an assignment in Block A-1 in Myanmar Offshore alongwith ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) from Daewoo International Corporation, Korea.

In addition to the above, GAIL is exploring new business ventures abroad in the countries such as Iran, Egypt, Philippines and Brazil.

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri B.J. Panda.

(c) Presently, GAIL does not have any CNG or petrochemical venture in other countries. Therefore, question of any foreign exchange earnings does not arise.

SHRI B. J. PANDA : Sir, in his answer, the hon. Minister has given an outline of the various proposed projects of GAIL in various countries, but has concluded by saying that since none of these projects are operational, the question of foreign exchange earnings does not arise. I would like to draw his attention to a news paper article of 10th January, when the Chairman of GAIL has been quoted as saying that the first of the overseas projects would be operational early in the next fiscal. Since we are already 'early in the next fiscal', I would like the hon. Minister to clarify when we can really expect any of these projects to become operational, and particularly, Sir, with some emphasis on the proposed project to import gas from Bangladesh -- because that has tremendous significance for the steel....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, put the question.

श्री राम नाईक: सभापति जी, ज्वाइंट वेंचर अभी तक बना नहीं है। बनने की संभावना है। जो स्टेटमेन्ट उन्होंने पढ़ा है, वह बात सही है कि "The first overseas project of the GAIL will kick start in the early part of the next fiscal". जब ज्वाइन्ट वेंचर बनकर उत्पादन शुरू होता है तो उसका लाभ और नुकसान होता है। आज तक गेल का इस तरह का ज्वाइंट वेंचर नहीं बना है और उसके जरिए कोई उत्पादन शुरू नहीं हुआ है। जहां तक बंगलादेश से गैस आने की बात है तो उसके संबंध में भारत में इण्डियन ऑयल कार्पोरेशन गेल और ऑयल एण्ड नेचुरल गैस कार्पोरेशन का ज्वाइंट वेंचर भारत में बना है। अभी तक बंगलादेश में वहां से गैस निर्यात करने का निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है। इसलिए जब तक वहां से गैस आने की संभावना नहीं बनती तब तक यह काम आगे नहीं बढ़ सकेगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

MISS MABEL REBELLO : Sir, I also want to put a supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, I am sorry, Kumari Mabel Rebello.

MISS MABEL REBELLO : Sir, gas is a deficit consumer item in India. Only 8 per cent of the gas need is met by GAIL and it is primarily constituted to transport and market gas, whether it is CNG or LNG or LPG. Now, when they are not able to meet the demands of the domestic consumer market, why are they going to the international market? When they are going to the international market, what are they doing? They are only taking 10 per cent of the equity. There is just one member in the

Board of Directors of those companies. They are not getting any major contracts. Then, why are they so anxious about it? With the little resources that they have, it does not make any business sense for them to go overseas.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, what is your question?

MISS MABEL REBELLO : When there is a huge potential in the domestic market to do business, why are they doing that? I would like to know that.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, we have to go to other countries and do business there. We must acquire more experience. *(Interruptions)....*

MISS MABEL REBELLO : There is tremendous demand here. You fulfil the local demand, the domestic demand.

SHRI RAM NAIK : With whatever expertise we have, we can go to other countries and do work there. Whatever gas is available, that gas is being sold by GAIL. We are producing more and more gas and trying to do it through the NELP, and it is giving results. The gas will come. You wait for a few years.

उत्तर प्रदेश में विमानन सुविधाओं का विस्तार

*447. **प्रो. एम. एम. अग्रवाल:** क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश में नागर विमानन सुविधाओं के विस्तार हेतु कोई परियोजनाएं हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) उत्तर प्रदेश के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र कानपुर शहर के लिए दिल्ली से कानपुर और कानपुर से दिल्ली के बीच विमान सेवाएं प्रदान करने हेतु सरकार ने अब तक कौन-कौन से कदम उठाए हैं?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री सैयद शाहनवाज़ हुसैन): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) लखनऊ और वाराणसी हवाई अड्डों पर ए-300 किस्म के बड़े विमानों के प्रचालन के लिए उनके मौजूदा रनवे को उपयुक्त बनाने की दृष्टि से दोनों रनवे के सुदृढ़ीकरण और उनका 9000 फुट तक विस्तार करने संबंधी परियोजनाएं प्रगति पर हैं। लखनऊ हवाई अड्डे के एप्रन का और अधिक विस्तार और सुदृढ़ीकरण किया जा रहा है। लखनऊ हवाई अड्डे पर नए तकनीकी ब्लॉक एवं कंट्रोल टावर का कार्य और वाराणसी हवाई अड्डे पर 800 यात्रियों को हैंडल करने की